

## **THE LIBRARY**

### **Introduction**

The Library provides resources and services to support the teaching and research activities of the University, both at the Lancaster campus as well as internationally, including at two overseas campuses. It consistently achieves high satisfaction ratings from students; it came first in the Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey 2017.

The Library collections include around 800,000 physical items, and offers access to 44,000 e-journal titles and 330,000 e-books. It provides access to numerous on-line bibliographic and full-text services, including Web of Science, Scopus, ScienceDirect, ABI/Inform Complete, Academic Search Ultimate, Business Source Complete, IEEE Xplore, Westlaw, Lexis and other services covering most subject areas. All databases are available off-campus to authorised students and staff.

### **The Library Building**

The Library building, located at the heart of the campus on Alexandra Square, dates from the 1960s, with an extension opened in 1997 creating a floor area of 13,300 m<sup>2</sup> accommodating physical collections and over a thousand study spaces. A separate Learning Zone providing informal group space for social learning 24/7 opened on the opposite side of Alexandra Square in 2009. The Library assumed operational responsibility for the Learning Zone in 2011.

A major phased remodelling of the Library building began in June 2014 and was completed in January 2016. Plans for the remodelling, drawn up by architects, Sheppard Robson, were informed via a lengthy process of consultation with the academic community to ensure that immediate requirements could be met without compromising different needs for the medium and longer term. The remodelling has provided a Library building that is as flexible, welcoming and comfortable as it is visually dramatic.

The Library Building is open 24/7 during University Term periods, 108 hours per week during the Easter Vacation and 94 hours per week during other vacation periods.

### **Library Systems and Services**

The Ex Libris discovery service Primo, badged as OneSearch, was implemented in May 2011. OneSearch entirely replaced the OPAC in August 2012 in preparation for the implementation of complementary unified resource management software (Ex Libris Alma) in January 2013. Lancaster pioneered early adoption of this hosted unified resource management system and was only the 4th site in the world to go “live”. Moving to Alma at the earliest opportunity enabled the integration of previously separate workflows for physical and digital content and more efficient backroom and frontline operations. More than 94% of circulation transactions are carried out through self-service.

The Ex Libris Leganto reading list management system, badged as Resource Lists, was introduced in July 2017, replacing the legacy system Talis Aspire. This development has enabled further integration of services associated with provision of and access to resources.

Library discovery is integrated in the Student Portal and available via the iLancaster mobile app. The Library's web presence (<http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/library/>), recently revised following an institutional review, includes extensive subject-specific research portals and online user guides.

Lancaster ePrints (<http://eprints.lancaster.ac.uk/>), a well-established institutional repository, is integrated with the PURE current research information system. Policies, procedures and resourcing for supporting Open Access requirements and research data management are an institutional priority under active development.

### **Library Staff**

The Library has 80 staff organised in three broad functional areas; Operations and User Services, Academic Services and Digital Innovation and Research Services. Further details of staffing structure and roles can be found at <http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/library/people/> .